

R277. Education, Administration.

R277-483. Persistently Dangerous Schools.

R277-483-1. Definitions.

A. "Adequate yearly progress" means a specific level of student achievement has been met by an individual school consistent with the requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act.

B. "Board" means the Utah State Board of Education.

C. "Charged" means the accusation of a crime by a formal complaint, information, or indictment.

D. "Days" for purposes of this rule mean school days, unless otherwise specified.

E. "Expelled" for purposes of this rule means a denial of school services at the student's school of residence for at least 60 consecutive school days. Expulsion differs from suspension in that a suspension is a less drastic method of discipline and generally continues for a shorter period than expulsion. A student shall be expelled by the local school board consistent with Section 53A-11-903.

F. "Federal gun-free schools violation" means any violation involving a firearm as defined under U.S.C., Title 18, Section 921.

G. "Homebound/hospitalized services" means services provided by a school district to a student that include the following:

- (1) a minimum of two instructional contact hours per week;
- (2) documentation of that contact;
- (3) justification of the services which may include specific injuries, surgery, illness, other disabilities, pregnancy, or a district determination that a student should receive home instruction and supervision for a designated period of time. The expected period of absence must be estimated.

H. "Parent" for purposes of this rule, means the custodial parent, court-appointed legal guardian, or district-appointed guardian.

I. "Persistently dangerous school" means a public K-12 school with any combination of grades and that meets the following criteria: The school has at least three percent of the student body, as determined by the October 1 count, that has been expelled, as defined by this rule, in each of three consecutive school years for:

- (1) violent criminal offenses, as defined in this rule, that occurred on school property or at school sponsored activities; or
- (2) federal gun free school violations.

J. "USOE" means the Utah State Office of Education.

K. "Victim" for purposes of this rule means the student who is the object of a violent criminal offense that occurs on the property of the school the student attends.

L. "Violent criminal offense" means actual or attempted criminal homicide under Section 76-5-201, rape under Section 76-5-402 through 76-5-402.3, aggravated sexual assault under 76-5-405, forceable sexual abuse under 76-5-404, aggravated sexual abuse of

a child under 76-5-404.1, aggravated assault under 76-5-103 and robbery under 76-6-301. The offense shall be reported to law enforcement and charged as indicated to qualify for purposes of this rule. The list of violent criminal offenses identified in this definition shall be maintained by the USOE and be readily available to the U.S. Department of Education.

R277-483-2. Authority and Purpose.

A. This rule is authorized by Utah Constitution Article X, Section 3 which vests general control and supervision of public education in the Board, Section 53A-1-401(3) which allows the Board to adopt rules in accordance with its responsibilities, and Title IX, Part E, Subpart 2, Section 9532, Unsafe School Choice Options, which requires a state receiving funds under this Act to establish and implement a statewide policy requiring that a student attending a persistently dangerous public elementary or secondary school, or who becomes a victim of a violent criminal offense while in or on the grounds of a public elementary or secondary school that the student attends, be allowed to attend a safe public elementary or secondary school within the school district, including a public charter school.

B. The purpose of this rule is to comply with federal law and to provide for student transfers, consistent with state law and local board policies, if students are residents of schools designated as persistently dangerous or victims of violent criminal offenses identified in R277-483-1L.

R277-483-3. Persistently Dangerous School Data Collection.

A. The USOE shall provide consistent definitions and forms for collection of data necessary to make designations under this rule.

B. The USOE shall use data to count violent criminal offenses, identified in R277-483-1L, collected annually in the Safe Schools Incident Report, received by the USOE by June 15 annually, and required by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Section 4122.

R277-483-4. Identification of Persistently Dangerous Schools.

A. A school that reports data showing three percent or more of its studentbody has been expelled for violent criminal offenses, as defined under R277-483-1H and federal gun-free schools violations, as defined under R277-483-1E, shall be required to provide data to the USOE for the previous two school years documenting the number and type of student expulsions. If the documentation shows that more than three percent of the school's studentbody for both years in question was expelled for offenses designated in R277-483-1E or R277-483-1H or both, the school shall be designated a persistently dangerous school for the upcoming school year under this rule.

B. Following review of data collected under R277-483-3 and application of the criteria of this rule, the USOE shall recommend

to the Board a list of persistently dangerous schools no later than July 1 of each school year.

C. The Board shall review the list of recommended persistently dangerous schools. The board shall designate persistently dangerous schools at a regular open Board meeting in July or August of each year.

D. A school, working with the local board, shall be removed by the Board from the list on an annual basis if:

(1) the school provides evidence and information to the Board's satisfaction that proves that the school no longer meets the qualifying criteria of this rule and

(2) the school presents evidence to the Board of regular and consistent training of students, staff, and community about school safety, harassment, bullying, and problem solving.

R277-483-5. Parental Notification.

If a school is designated by the Board as persistently dangerous, parents of all students attending the school shall be notified by the local board of available transfer schools in a reasonable manner by no later than August 15 of the school year of designation.

R277-483-6. Students' Right to Transfer to and Continued Attendance.

A. Parents receiving notification of persistently dangerous school status may choose to transfer and shall indicate desire to transfer and school of preference to the local board within 30 calendar days of the date of the notification letter. Schools or local school boards shall provide by written policy a window of at least 30 school days for student transfers. Students shall be assigned to a non-dangerous school within 30 days of written parent request for transfer.

B. Parents of students moving into a persistently dangerous school community following the transfer window shall be notified immediately of the school's persistently dangerous status and shall have 30 calendar days following registration to request transfer from the local board and indicate school preference. The local board shall have 30 calendar days to assign a school. Parents shall make a decision within 10 days following notification to accept the school assignment as offered by the local board or have their children remain in the resident school.

C. The local board shall designate available transfer schools within the district. The local board shall develop criteria for transfer schools and shall not designate other persistently dangerous schools or schools that failed to make adequate yearly progress (Section 1111 of the NCLB Act 1116 NCLB) as transfer schools.

D. Students attending alternative schools that have been designated as persistently dangerous shall be offered choices consistent with district policies for alternative school placement.

If a local board determines that the only appropriate placement for a student is an alternative school, the local board shall offer homebound/hospitalized services, under R277-419, or other home or non-school based programs as an option to the alternative school.

E. Students who have been disciplined for any of the violations identified in this rule forfeit the right to transfer from a persistently dangerous school.

F. Students shall be eligible to participate in all extracurricular activities immediately in their new schools of residence if they transfer consistent with this rule.

G. A student shall have a right to continued attendance at a school selected under this rule or a local board may require, by local board policy, a student to return to the student's resident school upon change of school safety designation, under R277-483-5.

R277-483-7. Student Victims of School Safety Offenses.

A. Students who are victims of a violent criminal offense, as defined in R277-483-1J, and their parent(s)/guardian(s), shall receive notice of available non-dangerous schools in the district as soon as reasonably possible after the school's or district's official notification of the incident by law enforcement.

B. The local board shall make available a school within 15 days of parental notification or arrange for homebound/hospitalized services, under R277-419, within 15 days of parental notification. The transfer shall not result in loss of credit or reduction in grade of the victimized student as long as the parent and student cooperate fully in the transfer process.

R277-483-8. Corrective Action

A. The Board may assist local boards to develop corrective action plans for schools designated as persistently dangerous.

B. Corrective action plans shall include such training as improving communication among schools, parents, local law enforcement; training about harassment and bullying for both school personnel and students; activities that address and increase student social competency; improved student supervision; and consistent enforcement of school discipline plans.

C. Local boards shall provide annual assurance to the Board that corrective action plans have been implemented in all designated persistently dangerous schools.

R277-483-9. Complaint and Appeal Procedure.

A. A designated standing committee of the Board shall be the appeals committee for schools designated as persistently dangerous.

(1) The designated standing committee of the Board shall establish procedures for the appeal process.

(2) Annually, the USOE shall notify local boards of proposed designation of persistently dangerous schools prior to presenting the list to the Board.

(3) The designated standing committee of the Board shall

provide an opportunity to the local board to appeal the proposed designation. The Board shall receive the designated standing committee's designations prior to a final decision by the Board. Local boards may only appeal based on evidence of incomplete or inaccurate data.

B. Parent appeal process of decisions made by local boards under this rule:

(1) A local board shall develop a procedure or use an existing appeals procedure to address appeals of decisions made under this rule.

(2) A parent shall attempt to resolve a complaint involving the application of this rule at the school level, where the parent shall receive, upon request, a copy of this rule and the local board's policy for handling parental complaints.

(3) If a parent is not satisfied, the parent shall attempt to resolve the complaint with the local board or its designee.

R277-483-10. Miscellaneous Provisions.

A. The Board shall maintain a record of the data collected and used to identify persistently dangerous schools and other appropriate records in order to demonstrate compliance with the law.

B. School districts have no responsibility for transportation of students under this rule.

KEY: expelled, persistently dangerous schools, school choice

Date of Enactment or Last Substantive Amendment: June 7, 2012

Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: Art X Sec 3; 53A-1-401(3); Title IX, Part E, Subpart 2, Section 9532